

In the aforesaid Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 5-7, 10, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jelen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,119,935) in view of Jones et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,978,013). Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 10, 21 and 22 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,229,621 in view of Jones et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,978,013). With regard to this latter rejection, applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c), along with the fee required under 37 CFR 1.20(d), thereby rendering the obviousness-type double patenting rejection moot. Claims 24 and 25 were allowed, and claims 3, 4, 8, 11, 12, 13, and 23 were objected to.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the patentable features of the present invention and now recites:

1. A system for distributing and printing packets of information to individual receiver/printer terminals at cooperating retail locations, said system including:
 - means for creating said packets of information in a digital format;
 - a wireless network for transmitting said packets of information to said retail locations; and
 - a network of dedicated, standardized high-speed printer appliances at said retail locations, each of said appliances being adapted to:
 - receive said transmitted packets of information from said wireless network;
 - select and accept those packets of information intended for each of said receiver/printer terminals from all those received;
 - process and store said accepted packets of information;
 - convert said accepted packets of information into a printable format at each individual receiver/printer terminal;
 - receive and process a request to print said accepted packets of information at individual receiver/printer terminals;
 - automatically print said accepted packets in response to said request; and
 - prevent misuse and unauthorized copying of said packets of information.

It will be appreciated that the system of claim 1, amended, offers numerous advantages over the prior art in that it provides a totally wireless system for conveying packets of

information to a retail establishment such as a grocery store where printed packets are automatically dispensed to customers on a network of standardized, high-speed printers without any interaction required by the consumer. The prior art relied upon by the Examiner neither teaches or suggests such a unique combination.

The patent to Jelen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,119,935) was cited by the Examiner to show a system for distributing and printing packets of information to individuals at selected retail locations upon request of said individuals, including means for creating the packets in digital format, a wireless network for transmitting the packets to the retail locations, appliances adapted to receive, process and store the selected packets from the network, process and store the packets from all those received, convert them into a printable format for distribution to said individuals, receive and process a request to print by said individuals, and automatically print the packets in response to the request.

As may be appreciated by a reading of the specification, the device disclosed in Jelen is principally directed toward providing a portable terminal to a shopper to simplify ordering. A wireless link is used to communicate from a terminal in the retail establishment to a base unit, which link facilitates the downloading of product and coupon information from the base unit to the terminal. The terminal is also fitted with a scanner which permits automatic capture of product information by the direct scanning of packages and coupon data by reading coupon bar codes. These basic components are used to create an individualized data base containing updated information on products of interest to and current coupons that is referenced as the shopper composes an order list. A fully composed order may then be automatically relayed to the store via the wireless link.

Jelen stresses that the device is to be used for consumer data processing and explains in some length the manner in which consumers have become comfortable in the use of digital technology such as PCs and the Internet, remote controls, personal information managers, electronic calendars and the like. Jelen notes in particular that it is now common for grocery shoppers to prepare orders and fax them to the store, and the device with the active database and wireless link disclosed therein is an improvement to compose and submit such an order.

The critical feature of the Jelen device is the incorporation of a *continuously active user interface*, with the entire system driven by a *continuous input of instructions and requests as entered by the user* (e.g., claim 1 of Jelen requires “a user interface adapted for selectively receiving product data representative of a product selected for purchase”). In fact, the Examiner highlights the requirement of consumer activity in the Office Action by referring to the fact that the packets of information are printed “upon request by said individuals.” Consumer or shopper electronic interactivity is a crucial element in the entire form and function of the Jelen device.

In the device described in the present application, however, the consumer is completely passive and is never required to enter any system request. Said system allows for the wireless distribution and printing of coupons to selected retailers. Paper coupons are presented at printer terminals and can be removed from the printer if they appeal to the shopper. *There are no facilities for the shopper to make requests or in any way interact with the system and no means to build or access a local shopper database.*

The independent claims rejected by the Examiner have been amended so as to make clear that the selectivity of the device of the present invention does not refer to individual consumers or shoppers, but rather to describe the selective distribution of a particular coupon, to a particular printer in a particular store by use of the destination code embedded in the bit stream

transmission code as detailed in applicant's prior U.S. Patent No. 6,229,621. While the system of the present invention can distribute and print a specific coupon at will, there is absolutely no facility to accommodate a consumer request. The "individuals" referred to in the original independent claims rejected by the Examiner were individual receiver/printer terminals, rather than individual shoppers. Furthermore, the "selected" packets of information did not refer to those coupons selected by the shopper, but rather those that were selected and accepted by the printer terminal in accordance with the bit-string acceptance code. Accordingly, the language of these claims has been amended to properly reflect the fact that the selection (or "acceptance") is being made by the appliance, rather than the shopper, and that the "individuals" are the individual receiver/printer appliances. Jelen neither teaches nor suggests such a fully autonomous system for distributing coupons without the interaction of a consumer.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the Jelen device, by definition, becomes operational only through the use of a local shopper database. No such database is required by our used in the system of the present application.

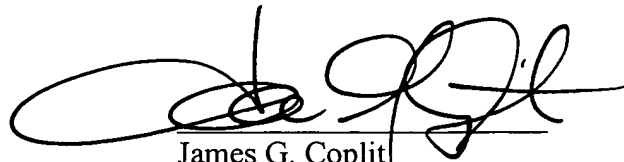
In light of these amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claim 1, amended, now patentably distinguishes over the Jelen et al. patent since it neither teaches nor suggests the use of a wireless network that broadly transmits packets of information to a network of standardized, high-speed printer appliance located at retail establishments, which appliances receive, selectively process, accept and print only those packets intended for such appliance, which coupons may then be taken by the consumer, while preventing fraud and abuse, such as printing multiple coupons or modifying the content of the coupons.

Accordingly, applicants submit that claim 1, amended, patentably distinguishes over all of the references cited by the Examiner, taken alone or in combination, and is condition for immediate allowance.

Claims 2-4 depend from and further restrict claim 1, amended, and applicants submit that these claims likewise distinguish over these references for the same reason as claim 1, amended. Independent claims 5 and 21 have been amended in the same manner as claim 1, amended, to more clearly identify the patentable features of the invention. Applicants submit that in view of these amendments, these claims and all claims that depend from and further restrict them, patentably distinguish over the references of records, whether taken alone or in combination, and are also in condition for immediate allowance.

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that all claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are therefore requested. In the event that the Examiner should determine that the aforesaid Amendment does not place the case in condition for immediate allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to discuss what additional steps would be necessary to immediately place the case in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James G. Coplit', is written over a horizontal line.

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COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 1. (AMENDED) A system for distributing and printing packets of information to
2 ~~individual receiver/printer terminals at cooperating retail locations~~ individuals at selected retail
3 ~~locations upon request by said individuals~~, said system including:
4 means for creating said packets of information in a digital format;
5 a wireless network for transmitting said packets of information to said retail locations;
6 and
7 a network of dedicated, standardized high-speed printer appliances at said retail locations,
8 each of said appliances being adapted to:
9 receive said transmitted packets of information from said wireless network;
10 select and accept those packets of information intended for each of said
11 receiver/printer terminals from all those received;
12 process and store ~~selected~~ said accepted packets of information ~~from all those~~
13 ~~received;~~
14 convert said ~~selected~~ accepted packets of information into a printable format ~~for~~
15 ~~distribution to said individuals~~ at each individual receiver/printer terminal;
16 receive and process a request to print said accepted packets of information ~~by said~~
17 ~~individuals~~ at individual receiver/printer terminals;
18 automatically print said ~~selected~~ accepted packets in response to said request; and
19 prevent misuse and unauthorized copying of said packets of information.
20
21 2. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 1, wherein said packets of information are
22 redeemable retail coupons.

3. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 1, wherein each of said printer appliances further includes a sensor adapted to detect whether said printed packet has been removed from said appliance.

4. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 3, wherein said printer appliance further includes means for printing an additional copy of said packet upon detection by said sensor that said printed packet has been removed from said appliance.

5. (AMENDED) A system for distributing packets of information to individual receiver/prINTER terminals at cooperating retail locations ~~individuals at selected retail locations upon request by said individuals~~, said system including:

means for creating said packets of information in digital format;

means for identifying intended recipients of said packets of information;

means for establishing a sequence of distribution of said packets of information;

a wireless network for transmitting said packets of information to said retail locations;

and

a network of dedicated, standardized high-speed printer appliances at said retail locations, each of said appliances being adapted to:

receive said transmitted packets of information from said wireless network;

select and accept those packets of information intended for each of said

receiver/prINTER terminals from all those received;

process and store ~~selected~~ said accepted packets of information ~~from all these~~
received;

convert said ~~selected~~ accepted packets of information into a printable format for
~~distribution to said individuals~~ at each individual receiver/printer terminal;

receive and process a request to print accepted packets of information ~~by said~~
~~individuals~~ at individual receiver/printer terminals;

automatically print said ~~selected~~ accepted packets in response to said request; and
prevent misuse and unauthorized copying of said packets of information.

6. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 5, wherein said packets of information are
redeemable retail coupons.

7. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 5, wherein said means for creating includes means
for importing textual and graphic information relating to said packets.

8. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 5, wherein said means for identifying includes a
database manager having a directory of all printer appliances and means for identifying those
printer appliances to which each of said packets are intended to be distributed.

9. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 5, wherein said means for sequencing comprises a
transmission sequence compiler.

1 10. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 5, wherein said wireless network comprises at
2 least one wireless pager.

1 11. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 5, wherein each of said printer appliances further
2 includes a sensor adapted to detect whether said printed packet has been removed from said
3 appliance.

1 12. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 11, wherein said printer appliance further includes
2 means for printing an additional copy of said packet upon detection by said sensor that said
3 printed packet has been removed from said appliance.

1 13. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 1, wherein said printer appliance further includes
2 a motion detector to detect the presence of an individual in the immediate proximity of said
3 appliance and means to display a stimulus upon the detection of the presence of said individual.
4

5 21. (AMENDED) A method for distributing packets of information to individual
6 receiver/printer terminals at cooperating retail locations ~~individuals at selected retail locations~~
7 ~~upon request by said individuals~~, said method including the steps of:
8 creating said packets of information in a digital format;
9 transmitting said packets of information to a network of dedicated, standardized high-
10 speed printer appliances at said retail locations over a wireless network;

11 receiving said transmitted packets of information from said wireless network at accepted
12 ~~selected~~ appliances;
13 processing and storing selected packets of information from all those received;
14 converting said ~~selected~~ accepted packets of information into a printable format for
15 ~~distribution to said individuals~~ at each individual receiver/printer terminal;
16 receiving and processing a request to print said accepted packets of information ~~by said~~
17 ~~individuals~~ at individual receiver/printer terminals;
18 automatically printing said ~~selected~~ accepted packets in response to said request; and
19 preventing misuse and unauthorized copying of said packets of information.
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